



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Rickey D. Hart et al.
Serial No.: 09/875,588
Filing Date: 06/06/2001
Title: SURGICAL FASTENING SYSTEM
Group Art Unit: 3731
Examiner: Julian W. Woo
Attorney's Docket No.: INNO-15 CON 3

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED
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Margaret M. Slezak

(NAME OF ATTORNEY)

Margaret M. Slezak

(SIGNATURE)

December 14, 2005

(DATE OF SIGNATURE)

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants hereby submit documents and information which may be considered material to the examination of this application. These documents and information are listed on the accompanying form.

A copy of document 1, which is listed on the accompanying form, PTO/SB/08A (substitute for Form PTO-1449) (one page), has not been submitted since submission of copies of U.S. patents and U.S. patent applications is no longer required under 37 CFR 1.98.

Copies of documents 2-5, which are also listed on PTO/SB/08A (substitute for Form PTO-1449) (one page), are enclosed herewith.

Applicants respectfully request that these documents be fully considered by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office during the examination of this application and printed on any patent which may issue on this application. Applicants also respectfully request that a copy of PTO/SB/08A (substitute for Form PTO-1449) (one page), submitted herewith, as considered and initialed by the Examiner, be returned to the undersigned with the next communication.

It is believed that this disclosure complies with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98. If for any reason the Examiner considers otherwise, it is respectfully
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requested that the undersigned be contacted by the Examiner by telephone in order that any deficiencies may be expeditiously remedied.

The enclosed documents may have markings thereon. Applicants are not presently aware of the source of those markings, and no significance is meant to be attached thereto.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination under 37 CFR 1.114. No certification or fee is believed to be required, however, should the Examiner determine that any fees are due in connection with this submission, please charge the same to Deposit Account No. 16-0221. A duplicate copy of this submission is enclosed for the convenience of the Examiner.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

 12/14/2005

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This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. **DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**